

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 2 and ending on page 7 line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

Turning first to Figure 1, the ambient air backflushed filter vacuum generally includes a cannister 10 with three[,] outlet ports 11, 12 and 13 and an inlet port 14. Three filters 21, 22 and 23 are disposed within the cannister 10 and three valves 31, 32 and 33 are disposed outside of the cannister 10. Each of the valves 31, 32 and 33 has a continuously opened port 31c, 32c or 33c which is in constant communication through a respective outlet port 11, 12 or 13 with a respective filter 21, 22 or 23. Each valve 31, 32 and 33 also has two reciprocally opened and closed ports 31a and 31b, 32a and 32b and 33a and 33b, respectively, and an operating mechanism 31d, 32d and 33d, respectively, for switching the valves 31, 32 and 33 between their reciprocal ports "a" and "b". One reciprocal port "a" of each of the valves 31, 32 and 33 is connected to a vacuum source 15 and the other reciprocal port "b" of each of the valves 31, 32 and 33 is in pneumatic communication with a source of ambient air 16. A controller 17 causes the operating mechanisms 31d, 32d and 33d to sequentially operate to switch the filters 21, 22 and 23 from pneumatic communication with the vacuum source 15 to pneumatic communication with ambient air 16. Each of the valves 31, 32 and 33 is normally connected so that the vacuum source 15 draws ambient air 16 through the cannister inlet port 14 into the cannister 10 and through the walls of the filters 21, 22 and 23. The controller 17 then sequentially causes the valves 31, 32 and 33 to switch to the ambient air port "b". When, for example, one valve 31 is in this backflushed mode through its ambient air port "b", the other valves 32 and 33 continue in the vacuum mode through their respective vacuum ports "a". The suction through the filters 22 and 23 draws ambient air 16 through the valve port 31 "b" and into the filter 21, reversing the

flow of air through the filter 21 and causing particles that have collected on the outer wall of filter 21 to be dislodged to drop to the bottom of the cannister 10. After a brief, predetermined backflush time, the controller 17 will cause the first valve 31 to return to its vacuum port "a" so as to resume the vacuum mode through all three filters 21, 22 and 23. After another predetermined time lapse, the controller 17 will sequentially perform the same operation on a second valve 32, so that the other valves 31 and 33 cause the second filter 22 to be backflushed. When the second filter 22 has been backflushed for the predetermined time period and the delay time has elapsed, the controller 17 will then cause the same operation to occur with respect to the third filter 23. The cycle continues for as long as the vacuum source 15 is in operation. When the third filter 23 has been backflushed, the controller 17 will delay for a predetermined time period before reinitiating the cycle. Preferably, and as hereinafter explained, the controller 17 is configured so as to allow the user to select both the delay time and the backflush time for the system.